

Date: April 4, 2007

To: ISDB Management & Staff  
Interested Stakeholders  
Parents & Special Education Directors

From: IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Laird B. Stone, President

Re: Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind Update

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The purpose of this letter is to provide an update as to the actions of the transition committees for education for the deaf and hard of hearing and the blind and visually impaired students in Idaho.

As you are all aware, this transaction actually began with the development of the outreach program more than 20 years ago. This educational delivery method has been effective and has increased over time, which impacted not only the residential aspect, but also the thought process concerning the actual delivery of services to these individuals. What is occurring now is part of the natural growth and expansion of that process.

The committees are preparing standards to be brought to the State Board for review, revision and adoption at the June 14-15, 2007 board meetings.

Once the standards are approved, the service delivery model and the administrative structure will be brought to the Board for review and possible adoption at the August 9-10, 2007 board meeting.

If all of these occur within this timeline, then any necessary legislation and proposed budget would be submitted to the Legislature during the 2008 session. Depending upon action of the 2008 Legislature, the full service delivery model could be in operation by the fall of 2008.

By May 1, 2007, the State Board will have in place two staff personnel, one to specifically work with the deaf and hard of hearing committee and one to specifically work with the blind and visually impaired committee.

The committees have been meeting on a regular basis providing reports and or updates to the Board's Director who then reports to the Board. Tremendous progress has been made in both areas.

What the final standards, service delivery and administrative structure will look like has not been presented to the Board, so I will not speculate on that structure. As previously mentioned, these answers will be available in June and August.

The respective committees continue to receive input during the process. I graciously thank all those who have given them information to date. Please rest assured that these committees are taking their obligations very seriously with full recognition of both Federal and State law.

Should anyone have any questions, please contact the Board's K-12 and Educator Policy Manager, Allison McClintick at 332-1579 or see the Board's website at <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov>, then click on the hotlink labeled Blind/Deaf Education.